# 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*

### Report submitted by the Republic of Korea

1. In accordance with the requirement stated in Action 20 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference (RevCon) of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Republic of Korea hereby submits a report, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996, on the implementation of the action plan of the 2010 NPT RevCon, article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament," and 13 practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference.

#### Review of the Treaty

2. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It is our conviction that maintaining the delicate balance among the three pillars of the Treaty is vital for its integrity and viability. To this end, it should be noted that nuclear disarmament is an indispensable part of the core bargain of the NPT, and thus disarmament is obligatory for the nuclear weapon states, as laid out in Article VI of the Treaty, and is fundamental to the full implementation of the Treaty.

3. As a non-nuclear weapon state, the Republic of Korea continues to abide by its commitments pursuant to the Treaty not to receive the transfer of, receive control over, manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. The Republic of Korea has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to respect all international agreements on non-proliferation and pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy, enhancing international confidence.

4. The Republic of Korea recognizes the efforts made thus far by the nuclear weapon states for the reduction of their nuclear arsenals. Yet it seems that there still

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remain gaps between the achievements of the nuclear weapon states and the level of expectations on the part of non-nuclear weapon states. Thus, it is imperative to pursue efforts to close this perception gap and restore trust between the nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. Mindful of the grand bargain that the NPT stands on, as indicated above, non-nuclear weapon states should strengthen their commitment to non-proliferation, while the nuclear weapon states should do their part in making real progress on nuclear disarmament. By doing so, the nuclear weapon states can enjoy moral authority and the political legitimacy to strengthen non-proliferation norms. The Republic of Korea therefore urges all nuclear weapon states to implement their obligations under Article VI in good faith.

5. There is an urgent need for the international community to bolster the NPT-based international non-proliferation regimes as the NPT faces unprecedented challenges, such as cases of non-compliance, the heightened threat of nuclear proliferation, and the potential nexus between terrorists and WMD. The Republic of Korea fully supports the UN Security Council Resolution 1887, a landmark document which clearly sets the overarching tasks ahead of us in the coming years and fully endorses the goals stated therein. The Republic of Korea continues to work closely with States Parties to the Treaty to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

6. As there is an emerging threat of non-state actors, including terrorist groups, gaining access to nuclear and radiological materials, nuclear security has now become an integral part of achieving nuclear non-proliferation. During this review cycle, much progress has been made in international efforts to enhance nuclear security, most notably with the three Nuclear Security Summits. As the chair and host of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the Republic of Korea has played an active role in intensifying international efforts to combat nuclear and radiological terrorism as well as securing and minimizing nuclear materials. The Republic of Korea will continue to play a constructive role to enhance nuclear security through active participation in the work of the relevant international organizations and initiatives, including the UN, the IAEA, INTERPOL, the Global Partnership (GP) and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

**Implementation of Action Plans**

**Pillar 1: Nuclear Disarmament (Actions 1-22)**

7. The Republic of Korea is firmly committed to the objectives of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is an obligation for all NPT parties, including the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS). The Republic of Korea calls upon the Nuclear Weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, including the steps specified in Action 5 in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT RevCon and to agree on a standard reporting form on disarmament measures as called for in Action 21. In this regard, the Republic of Korea welcomes relevant efforts by the five Nuclear Weapon States, in particular the regular Conferences held among them during this review cycle. The Republic of Korea encourages the Nuclear Weapon States to produce more tangible results through this process, especially in the area of nuclear disarmament.

8. The members of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) need to break the two decades of stalemate by adopting a programme of work and embarking on a substantive discussion on the core issues of nuclear disarmament. With respect to security assurances, the Republic of Korea believes that credible and reliable

negative security assurances (NSAs) should be accorded to the Non-nuclear Weapon States that are parties to the NPT and in full compliance with non-proliferation obligations under the NPT.

9. The Republic of Korea continues to support an early commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, referred to as the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). It should also be emphasised that pending the conclusion of an FMCT, all states should declare or observe a moratorium on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes. In this regard, the ROK welcomes the report and the recommendations on the FMCT adopted by the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in April 2015.

10. The Republic of Korea underscores the necessity of an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Republic of Korea signed the CTBT on 24 September 1996 and ratified the Treaty on 24 September 1999. The Republic of Korea calls for the early signing and ratification of the Treaty by those states that have not yet done so, especially those states listed in Annex 2 whose ratification is required for its entry into force. In this respect, the Republic of Korea welcomes the ratification of the Treaty by the Government of Indonesia in February 2012.

11. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, all States should refrain from nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosive explosions, and all existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions should be maintained. In this respect, it is extremely deplorable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has conducted nuclear tests in October 2006, May 2009 and February 2013, which directly violate the object and purpose of the Treaty. The DPRK should join the CTBT at the earliest date and abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094.

12. The Republic of Korea supports and contributes to the development of a verification regime for the Treaty, especially by participating in the international monitoring system through its Korean Seismic Research Station (KSRS) in Wonju, located in the northeastern part of its territory. The Republic of Korea hosted CTBT-related trainings and technical workshops on regional cooperation and verification in 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013. The Republic of Korea will also host the CTBT Group of Eminent Persons Meeting(GEM) in June 2015.

13. It is the view of the Republic of Korea that irreversibility is one of the fundamental principles in nuclear disarmament measures. Only the irreversible reductions of nuclear weapons can ensure that re-deployment will not be possible. The Republic of Korea shares the view that the principle of irreversibility should be applied in all disarmament and arms control measures.

14. The Nuclear Weapon States are required to put their unequivocal commitment to disarmament into action by making systematic efforts. As a matter of principle, transparency should be applied to all the process of disarmament and arms control efforts.

15. The Republic of Korea is actively participating in international efforts to counter the proliferation of WMD and their delivery means. The Republic of Korea, as a state party to all major disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and all

export control regimes, believes that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

**Pillar 2: Nuclear Non-proliferation (Actions 23-46)**

16. Universal adherence is essential for the viability of the NPT. The Republic of Korea urges the countries which remain outside the NPT to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states without further delay.

17. The Republic of Korea concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement (CSA) with the IAEA in October 1975 and ratified the Additional Protocol (AP) in February 2004. The Republic of Korea is of the view that the additional protocol (AP) together with comprehensive safeguards agreements (CSAs) represents a new verification standard and the universal adherence to them is essential in ensuring confidence in the compliance of State Parties with Treaty obligations. The Republic of Korea urges those States Parties that have yet to bring into force CSAs to do so as soon as possible and without further delay. The Republic of Korea calls upon all States Parties which have yet to bring into force APs to do so as soon as possible.

18. The Republic of Korea continues to support efforts of the IAEA to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the IAEA safeguards system. The Republic of Korea has been a strong contributor to the Agency's Member State Support Programme (MSSP). It pledged 2 million US dollars in cash and in kind to the MSSP. The Republic of Korea hosted the 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) in July 2011 which aimed to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation in the region. On its part, the Republic of Korea is making continual efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for a comprehensive national nuclear control system. Integrated safeguards are being implemented in the Republic of Korea since July 2008 after a broader conclusion was drawn for the country at the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting in June 2008.

19. The Republic of Korea authorizes nuclear related exports only when it is satisfied that the exports would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or be diverted for acts of nuclear terrorism. The Republic of Korea maintains effective and robust nuclear export controls based on the Guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

20. The Republic of Korea, when making nuclear export decisions, duly takes into account whether a recipient State has brought into force IAEA safeguards obligations in accordance with its relevant rules and regulations.

21. The Republic of Korea attaches importance to preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials and enhancing relevant international cooperation among States parties, in clear recognition of the ever-increasing threat that nuclear and other radioactive materials may fall into the hands of terrorists, criminals and other irresponsible actors. In this regard, the Republic of Korea fully endorses relevant action measures contained in the 2010 Washington Communiqué and its Work Plan, the 2012 Seoul Communiqué and the 2014 Hague Communiqué of the Nuclear Security Summit. The Republic of Korea shares information on the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials by participating in the IAEA illicit trafficking database (ITDB) and Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC). It operates a

Megaport initiative in the port of Busan. It hosted a regional exercise on nuclear forensics jointly with the IAEA in August 2011 and an international workshop on nuclear material tracking and detection systems in November 2011.

22. The Republic of Korea fully endorses and supports the goals and objectives of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) that aims to combat shipments of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern, consistent with national legal authorities and relevant international law and frameworks, including the UN Security Council. The Republic of Korea hosted a regional workshop, a maritime interdiction exercise of the PSI in October 2010 in Busan and an Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in September 2012. Moreover, the Republic of Korea is scheduled to host the Asia-Pacific Outreach Workshop in July 2015.

23. Since 2004 the Republic of Korea has been contributing to the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and welcomed its extension beyond 2012. The Republic of Korea hosted a plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in Daejeon in June 2011 as well as a meeting of the GICNT Implementation Assessment Group (IAG) in Seoul in July 2014. The Republic of Korea together with Australia has been co-sponsoring the resolution on "Preventing and Combating Illicit Brokering Activities" at the UN General Assembly biennially since 2008.

24. The Republic of Korea strongly supports global efforts to strengthen nuclear security worldwide with the conviction that nuclear security, together with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, will serve as an important factor in advancing a world without nuclear weapons. The Republic of Korea has actively participated in the three Nuclear Security Summits, including the 2012 Seoul Summit. Since the last Summit in Hague, the Republic of Korea has successfully implemented its commitments to carry on with the multilateral project on high-density low-enriched uranium fuel (U-Mo), establish the Nuclear Centre of Excellence and execute the Radiation Source Location Tracking system (RADLOT) in Vietnam, among others.

25. At the 2014 Hague Nuclear Security Summit, President Park Geun-hye put forth a four-point proposal for advancing the global nuclear security architecture. The four points include a holistic approach to promote synergy among nuclear security, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation; regional dialogue mechanisms in the area of nuclear security; overcoming the capacity gap among States in implementing nuclear security; and tackling the new threat of cyber terrorism against nuclear facilities. The Republic of Korea will continue its efforts in the area of nuclear security to push ahead with these proposals and to enhance cooperation between countries within the relevant international architecture.

26. The Republic of Korea supports the objectives of international nuclear security instruments, in particular the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), as amended, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), as essential building block of the global nuclear security architecture. Following the revision of relevant national laws, the Amended CPPNM and the ICSANT were ratified and came into force in May 2014.

27. The Republic of Korea has abided by the principles of the revised IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, in addition to the

Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 2004.

28. A two-week International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission was conducted in February 2014 by the IAEA to review the nation's nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework for nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities as well as security arrangements. The Republic of Korea is carrying out the recommendations and suggestions by the IPPAS with a view to further strengthening the ROK's nuclear security regime.

29. An early resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue is vital to ensuring the integrity of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as to securing peace on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. Strenuous efforts have been made to achieve the verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK through dialogue, including the Six-Party Talks. However, it is extremely regrettable that despite these efforts the DPRK carried out another nuclear test in February 2013 and multiple missile launches in April and December 2012 in direct violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009).

30. In its Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2012/13) and resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), the Security Council strongly condemned the third nuclear test and the launches by the DPRK and demanded that the DPRK immediately comply fully with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions, including that it abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; immediately cease all related activities; and not conduct any further launches that use ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests or any further provocation.

31. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) decides that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors to access weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons. The resolution plays a crucial role in filling the loophole of the current non-proliferation regime by laying out such effective measures as implementation reporting, country visits, assistance and capacity-building measures. As the chair of the 1540 Committee in 2013 and 2014, the Republic of Korea supports universalizing the implementation of the resolution and is willing to continue its efforts for achieving that goal. It convened the High-Level Security Council Open Debate to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1540 on 7 May 2014 to gather the political will of the member states and adopted a presidential statement (document S/PRST/2014/7), and hosted a regional workshop for promoting implementation of resolution 1540 in the Asian region in October 2014.

**Pillar 3: Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (Actions 47-64)**

32. The Republic of Korea fully recognizes the right of States Parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and is committed to facilitate nuclear cooperation among States Parties, in conformity with articles I, II, III, and IV of the Treaty. The Republic of Korea places a higher priority on the fullest possible utilization of nuclear energy as it can contribute not only to the energy security of States but also to human health, food security, water resource management, and so forth.

33. The Republic of Korea continues to expand bilateral cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. The Republic of Korea has currently concluded nuclear cooperation

agreements with twenty-nine countries and there are several either in the pipeline or under negotiation.

34. The Republic of Korea fully supports the IAEA technical cooperation programme as the main vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries in need. The Republic of Korea has been cooperating with the Agency in advancing various technical cooperation projects including the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). The Republic of Korea supports the capacity building of radiation medicine in PACT Model Demonstration Sites countries such as Vietnam, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Yemen. Specifically, the Republic of Korea has provided fellowship training in the fields of radiotherapy and cancer diagnosis, and also dispatched experts to the sites upon the installation of new radiation equipment or the application of new treatment technology.

35. The Republic of Korea provided a financial contribution to the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) Program of the IAEA with the conviction that the PUI will serve as a real asset in facilitating cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy enshrined in Article IV of the Treaty. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that the PUI will significantly enhance the Agency's ability to provide developing countries with wider access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Republic of Korea has provided a total of about 4,300,000 US dollars to the PUI including a project to develop an e-learning module on nuclear power plant infrastructure in collaboration with the IAEA. The Republic of Korea also supports various Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) projects in the fields of cancer treatment, marine environment and the management of RCA activities and the IAEA's activities like Coordinate Research Programme (CRP) and renewal of IAEA's laboratory in Seibersdorf. Moreover, it has constantly made in-kind contributions to the IAEA's activities by sending experts to RCA projects as lecturers and hosting meetings and training courses.

36. The Republic of Korea carries out all nuclear activities in a manner that ensures the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. After the Fukushima nuclear accident in March 2011, the Republic of Korea conducted stress tests on all twenty-one nuclear power plants in operation, which found that all plants are operating in compliance with rigorous safety standards and are able to withstand natural disasters. The Republic of Korea set up the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) in October 2011 as an independent agency responsible for issues related to nuclear security, safety, and safeguards, which will serve to reinforce Korea's regulatory capacity in nuclear security.

37. The Republic of Korea hosted an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in July 2011 and actively follows up on the identified recommendations and suggestions.

38. The Republic of Korea hosted the IAEA INPRO Dialogue Forum in 2012 titled "the Long-term Prospects for Nuclear Energy in the Post-Fukushima Era". An active engagement through the collaboration of the IAEA member states and the participants was made.

39. The Republic of Korea is of view that the production and stable supply of radioactive isotopes for medical uses can improve quality of human life. To this end, the Republic of Korea plans to build a new research reactor equipped with an

isotope production facility by 2018. In addition, the construction of the Radiation Mutation Breeding Center equipped with state-of-the-art radiation fusion research experimental facilities was completed in 2013. The Republic of Korea is committed to contributing to the global community by conducting radiation research activities and providing education and training programs.

40. Despite the significant advancements in nuclear technology, developing countries have yet to fully benefit from nuclear energy. In fact, we are witnessing an ever-widening technological gap between the developed and developing countries. As a measure to reduce this gap, the Republic of Korea has developed the Integrated Regulatory Infrastructure Support System (IRISS) program, which has been designed in compliance with the IAEA Safety Fundamentals requirements and guides to provide guidance and consultation to nuclear newcomers with regard to establishing a regulatory infrastructure and strengthening competency of regulatory bodies. The Republic of Korea also founded the International Non-proliferation and Security Academy in February 2014 with the objective of educating and training experts and government officials of countries embarking on nuclear power programs, and hosted a mentoring workshop in November 2014 with the IAEA.